



## **Nevada Veterans Services Commission Meeting Minutes**

**Date:** June 4, 2009

**Capitol Annex**

101 N. Carson Street  
Carson City, NV 89701

### **Roll Call**

#### **Present:**

Assemblywoman Kathy McClain  
Margaret Puccinelli  
Bill Baumann  
Ronald Gutzman  
Gina Crown  
Mike Musgrove

#### **Absent:**

Senator Terry Care  
Scott Smith  
Sean Fellows

### **Pledge of Allegiance**

#### **Prayer**

### **Guest and Representative Introduction:**

Tim Tetz – Executive Director – Nevada Office of Veterans Services  
DeeDra Cornelius – Executive Assistant - Nevada Office of Veterans Services  
Gary Bermeosolo – Administrator – Nevada State Veterans Home  
Eric Pike – Assistant Administrator – Nevada State Veterans Home  
Sheryle Lengdorfer – Volunteer  
Marta Elliot – Co-Chair – University Veterans Coalition  
Stuart Greenfield – President – Wolf Pack Veterans  
Bob Sharp – Director of Veterans and Military Affairs – Senator Harry Reid's Office

### **Approval of this Meeting's Agenda:**

Bill Bauman – Made a motion to accept the agenda  
Mike Musgrove – Motion was seconded  
Decision: Unanimous consent

### **Approval of March 5, 2009 Minutes:**

Mike Musgrove – Made a motion to accept the minutes  
Ron Gutzman – Motion was seconded  
Decision: Unanimous consent  
Changes Requested: None

## **NOVS Agency Reports:**

### **Fiscal Report:**

Report given by Tim Tetz for Joseph Palmer – Agency Financial Officer - Nevada Office of Veterans Services – Nevada State Veterans Home  
(All items and charts can be found in the Commission book)

### **Overview:**

1. Budget Account 2560:
  - a. At the end of the fiscal year, current projections indicate account 2560 will have \$17,324 left.
  - b. Money had to be moved between sub accounts to balance expenses.
  - c. Cemetery interment fees are down.
  - d. Personnel services exceeded their expenses by about \$3500.
  - e. Retirement pay was taken out of the budget for Jack Porrino.
  - f. There are currently no vacancy savings to absorb any of the money going out.
  - g. During the next biennium, all agencies will take a 4.6% cut; most employees will be taking one furlough day per month for the next two years to cover this percentage.
  - h. Money has been supplemented for the advisory committee.
  - i. At this time there are no projections of losing any staff members in the Agency.
2. Budget Account 2561:
  - a. At the end of the fiscal year, current projections indicate account 2561 will return approximately \$108,947.
  - b. General fund independence is not happening yet, but possibly by 2011.
  - c. There will be a slight increase in staffing at the Home; these positions are also included in the 4.6% reduction.
  - d. The Home has given up some previously budgeted equipment and IT solutions to help cut costs.
3. Gift Account:
  - a. The report will go before the Interim Finance Committee for approval.
  - b. This account will cover plant replacement at NSVH.
  - c. This account will cover Mariner Cove upgrades at NSVH.

**Guardianship Program Status Report:**

Report given by Tim Tetz for Denise Welch – Guardianship Program Manager

(All items and charts can be found in the Commission book)

**Overview:**

1. Sixteen fiduciary wards have been discharged from the Guardianship program.
2. There are currently four wards NOVS continues to hold funds for; one of which is deceased.

**Nevada State Veterans Home Administrator Report:**

Report given by Gary Bermeosolo – Nevada State Veterans Home Administrator

(All items and charts can be found in the Commission book)

**Overview:**

1. Discussed demographics; the breakdown of residents at NSVH.
2. The Home's annual VA survey was completed:
  - a. There were positive comments on the survey results.
  - b. There were two issues found:
    - i. Physicians don't always sign their patient paperwork on time.
    - ii. Some privileging paperwork was not written correctly.
  - c. The average number of issues found in nursing homes is eight and the Home only had two.
3. The Administrator of NSVH announced he is on the committee for VA reporting.
4. The RUGS III and A87 rates were discussed regarding payment for 70% to 100% veteran related disability rated residents.
5. Discussed the new dining facility:
  - a. Resident satisfaction is up.
  - b. Dining ratings are up.
  - c. The residents enjoy the new menu, tables, and all around setting.
6. NSVH has a 5 star rating:
  - a. The Home is at the top of seventy two homes in Nevada.
  - b. The Home was rated best in the nation for Medicaid/Medicare certified homes.
  - c. Of one hundred thirty five homes in Nevada, sixty seven are Medicaid/Medicare certified.
7. Medical software update:
  - a. The transition is ongoing from the old software to the new software.

- b. There is a Presidential mandate for all records to be electronic within the next few years.
- 8. Pinnacle Survey:
  - a. The last facility comparison was completed in March 2009.
  - b. Five residents from each neighborhood are surveyed each time the survey is conducted.
  - c. The survey is an informative tool for the Nurse Managers.
- 9. Mariner Cove Remodel:
  - a. The remodeling project continues to be underway.
  - b. New carpet and lighting are being installed.
  - c. Non-permeable wainscoting is being installed.

### **Northern Nevada Veterans Memorial Cemetery Report:**

Report given by Tim Tetz for Wes Block – Cemetery Superintendent,  
(All items and charts can be found in the Commission book)

#### **Overview:**

- 1. The Flagpole project is 95% complete.
  - a. Three flags will be flown twenty four hours per day, seven days per week with lighting.
  - b. The flags were up and ready for Memorial Day.
  - c. The project was paid for with over \$60,000 in donations to the cemetery.
- 2. There were over eight hundred people in attendance for the Memorial Day ceremony.
- 3. The Burial Expansion project will not happen until October of 2009; it is dependent upon receiving the final amount of money needed.
- 4. A monthly interment, with a full honor guard from NCA, will be available for families who cannot attend funerals.
- 5. The Director of State Public Works Board has visited the cemetery which resulted in approval to fix the cracks and pavement within the cemetery.
- 6. Reviewed the number of burials and plots within the cemetery:
  - a. To date there has been a total of 5,778 burials.
  - b. A total of 3,266 plots are available.
  - c. Only 5 single casket burial plots are available of the 3,266 total.

### **Southern Nevada Veterans Memorial Cemetery Report:**

Report given by Tim Tetz – Executive Director  
(All items and charts can be found in the Commission book)

#### **Overview:**

- 1. There has been a slight increase in interments at SNVMC.
- 2. The maintenance building is still under construction.

3. The old maintenance building will be taken down and replaced by an access road.
4. Headstones/Markers:
  - a. NOVS has revised and implemented new policies regarding headstones at the cemeteries.
  - b. An investigation was completed by NOVS.
  - c. There are approximately twenty one hundred headstones/markers which need to be destroyed.
  - d. NOVS may contract someone to destroy the headstones/markers or possibly purchase a machine for the job.
5. Jack Porrino, the cemetery's Superintendent, retired on May 2, 2009, to spend more time with his family.
6. NOVS is in the process of conducting interviews for the open Superintendent position.
7. A memorial has been erected at the cemetery in which the names of those killed during the Global War on Terror (GWOT) will be added.

#### **Veterans Services Program Report:**

Report given by Tim Tetz for Jeanette Rae – Veterans Services Program Manager

(All items and charts can be found in the Commission book)

#### **Overview:**

1. It was announced Dan Manley, a Veterans Service Officer, will retire on November 20, 2009.
  - a. NOVS will be hiring internally to fill this position if possible.
2. The Mobile Outreach Vehicle has been deployed and will attend many scheduled events this year.

#### **Executive Director Report:**

Report given by Tim Tetz – Executive Director

(All items and charts can be found in the Commission book)

#### **Overview:**

1. Discussed the wins and losses of veteran related legislative bills.
2. New NOVS Website:
  - a. A new website is under construction which will direct visitors more effectively.
  - b. The website is currently at the top in veteran websites when searched for on the internet.
  - c. The new website will include a Flickr page, which will provide pictures of events and staff.

3. NOVS will assist in managing the next Global War on Terror (GWOT) Conference which was previously handled exclusively by Lieutenant Governor Krolicki's office.
4. Reno office IT:
  - a. The Reno office is installing new computer systems.
  - b. One half of the office has received their systems and the other half will receive their systems in the next fiscal year.
5. License plate pictures on the back of the Mobile Outreach Vehicle:
  - a. The second plate from the left on the vehicle is Air National Guard and Army National Guard.
  - b. The Gold Star plate is missing and will be applied.
  - c. The Purple Heart plate is missing and will be applied.

#### **Deputy Executive Director Report:**

Report given by Tim Tetz for Carole Turner – Deputy Executive Director  
(All items and charts can be found in the Commission book)

#### **Overview:**

1. Carole Turner, Deputy Executive Director, was unable to attend this meeting; she is in New Hampshire representing NOVS at the National Women Veterans Conference.
2. NOVS received a report from The Firm, a contracted PR company, regarding the Women Veterans Summit, put on by NOVS.
3. Let the Joy Rise will now be contracted to handle the next Women Veterans Summit.

#### **Unfinished Business:**

#### **Nevada State Veterans Home – Sparks**

#### **Overview:**

1. The legislative bill for the new Home did not go through.
2. \$15 million is going to roads instead of the Home.
3. NOVS continues to look at self funding options for the construction of the new Home.
4. Green House® plans have been put on hold until the money is available.
5. NOVS will continue to educate others on the need for this facility.

#### **Public Comment:**

#### **Sheryle Lengdorfer – Volunteer**

#### **Overview:**

1. Support our Troops grocery bags:
  - a. The idea is to distribute grocery bags throughout Nevada with the cooperation of leading supermarkets which will reimburse NOVS for each bag used.
  - b. The shopping bags will have veteran related logos.
  - c. Sponsors will pay for the bags and have their logos on them as well.
  - d. The approximate cost of each bag is \$2.00 or less.
  - e. The stores will donate 5 cents each time a bag is used.
  - f. Sheryle will implement the program with the grocery stores and set up sponsors.
  - g. NOVS will check into where the money can go; possibly to the Veterans Gift Account.
  - h. A motion was requested by the Vice-Chairwoman to approve working with Ms. Lengdorfer to move forward with this project.

**Approval to begin the Grocery Bag Project:**

Mike Musgrove – Made a motion to approve

Gina Crown – Motion was seconded

Decision: Unanimous consent

**Marta Elliot – Co-Chair – University Veterans Coalition**  
**Stuart Greenfield – President – Wolf Pack Veterans**

**Overview:**

1. Integration from Combat to Student Project:
  - a. A state wide program for students who are veterans is the goal of this project and state wide support is needed.
  - b. A survey of students who are US military veterans in the Nevada System of Higher Education is needed.
  - c. Funding is needed for this survey; matching funds are needed to receive the grant which has been awarded to them for this project.
  - d. The matching funds needed are \$4130; however, they are in need of \$20,000 to fully develop the project.
  - e. Announced a fund raiser on November 15, 2009 for the Wolf Pack Veterans at the Sage Hill Gun Club; the Executive Director of NOVS was invited to speak.
  - f. A motion was requested by the Vice-Chairwoman to acknowledge the Coalition for the work they have done and for NOVS to provide advice, statistics, and general help for their objectives.

**Approval to begin the Grocery Bag Project:**

Gina Crown – Made a motion to approve NOVS support

Mike Musgrove – Motion was seconded

Decision: Unanimous consent

**Other Reports:****American Legion (ALG) Update**

Report given by Ron Gutzman

**Overview:**

1. The ALG is preparing for Boys State which has approximately one hundred thirty five juniors in its program.
2. ALG just finished its Oratorical contest.
3. The American Legion Department Convention will be hosted during the last week in June of 2009.
4. The ALG participated in the Memorial Day ceremony at the Northern Nevada Veterans Memorial Cemetery (NNVMC).

**Disabled American Veterans (DAV) Update**

Report given by Bill Baumann

**Overview:**

1. The DAV had their yearly convention in Laughlin, NV on May 1, 2009.
2. Six vans were purchased and delivered last year; one was provided by NOVS.
3. One van was considered totaled due to an accident.
4. Discussed the breakdown of donations provided to the DAV.
5. Reviewed DAV volunteer hours.
6. Reviewed the demographics of the wheelchair report.
7. The DAV completed two homeless stand downs in Las Vegas, NV and one in Reno, NV.
8. Two hundred volunteers placed and picked up flags at the Southern Nevada Veterans Memorial Cemetery (SNVMC) for the Memorial Day ceremony.

**Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Update**

Report given by Mike Musgrove

**Overview:**

1. Two entrants placed very well in the Nationals of the Voice of Democracy.
2. The VFW is working with schools to participate in a Patriotic Art Contest.



3. The VFW participated in the Legislative Summit and the Women Veterans Summit.

## **Open Commission Discussion**

### **Overview:**

1. Exceptional Veteran Support from the Governor's Office:
  - a. Tim Tetz acknowledged Jan Brase for exceptional veteran support with Governor Gibbons' office.
  - b. Vice-Chairwoman Margaret Puccinelli presented Jan Brase with a plaque for her support.

## **Future Meetings**

### **Upcoming Commission Meetings:**

1. **Veterans Service Commission Meeting**  
September 11, 2009 – Las Vegas, NV
2. **Veterans Service Commission Meeting**  
December 10, 2009 – Elko, NV (Tentative Date)
3. **Veterans Service Commission Meeting**  
March 26, 2009 – Mesquite, NV (Tentative Date)
4. **Veterans Service Commission Meeting**  
June XX, 2010 – Las Vegas, NV

### **Other Upcoming Meetings:**

1. **Global War on Terror (GWOT) Conference**  
September 12, 2009 – Las Vegas, NV
2. **Women Veterans Conference**  
March 27, 2010 – Las Vegas, NV (Tentative Date)
3. **Legislative Symposium**  
March 27, 2010 – Las Vegas, NV (Tentative Date)  
(Co-located with the Women Veterans Conference)

## **Adjournment**

Vice-Chairwoman Puccinelli – Adjourned the meeting